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ACTION SS 70
INFO SSO 00,CCO 00,NSCE 00,DODE 00,CIAE 00,

P R 040950Z NOV 68
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 672
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
CINCPAC 2820

LIM

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4
NLJ 91-429
By ___, NARA, Date 5-19-92

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LIMDIS

1. DURING SERIES MEETINGS LAST FEW DAYS, WHICH HAVE INCLUDED DISCUSSIONS WITH CSAF GENERAL MCCONNELL AND WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF 7/13AF, WE HAVE WORKED OUT ARRANGEMENTS FOR APPLYING ADDITIONAL USAF AIR POWER TO LAOS UNDER THE RULES OF ENGAGEMENT IMPOSED BOTH BY WASHINGTON AND THE RLG, SUBSEQUENT TO CESSATION IN NVN.

2. THESE ARRANGEMENTS WILL RESULT IN A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN SORTIE RATE IN THE BARREL ROLL AREA, FROM AN EARLIER DAILY AVERAGE OF ABOUT 30 TO A NEW LEVEL OF ABOUT 100 STRIKE SORTIES PER DAY. ALTHOUGH THERE WILL INITIALLY BE SOME CONTROL PROBLEMS BECAUSE OF NECESSITY TO PHASE A 1E AIRCRAFT THROUGH MINOR STRUCTURAL MODIFICATION, WE BELIEVE THIS LEVEL SHOULD BE WELL ESTABLISHED BY TIME NORMAL ENEMY DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE BEGINS IN THIS AREA.

3. IN THE SOUTH, SORTIES HAVE ALREADY RISEN FROM A LEVEL OF ABOUT 100 PER DAY TO 250 PER DAY AND SHOULD GO HIGHER WHEN COMMANDO HUNT AND OTHER OPERATIONS GO INTO EFFECT. THEREFORE, DESPITE ANTICIPATED EXTRA ENEMY EFFORTS TO INCREASE TRAFFIC ON TRAIL STRUCTURE, MOVEMENT SHOULD BECOME MORE DIFFICULT AND EXPENSIVE, ESPECIALLY IF EFFORT CAN BE MAINTAINED AROUND THE CLOCK.

4. ALTHOUGH PRESS IS CURRENTLY DISTRACTED BY U.S. ELECTIONS, EVENTS IN PARIS, AND NON EVENTS IN SAIGON, WE EXPECT THEM

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INFO: CJCS-1(1) DJS-3(2-4) SJCS-1(5) J3-8(6-13) J5-3(14-16) SACSA-3(17-19) NMCC-1(20) DIA-15(21-35) CSA-1(36) CNO-6(37-42) CSAF-1(43) CMC-3(44-46) GILE-1(47) GDT/VP

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SOON TO ZERO IN ON THIS INCREASED ACTIVITY. WE NOTE THERE HAVE ALREADY BEEN SOME INFORMED LEAKS ABOUT "TRIPLING" THE LEVEL OF ACTIVITY IN LAOS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO DECLINE TO SPECULATE ON SORTIE RATES FOR OUR "RECONNAISSANCE" OPERATIONS ON GROUNDS THIS IS OPERATIONAL QUESTION.

GP 1 SULLIVAN
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